

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3654
INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652 : NA
TAGS : EFIS, NI
SUBJ : SOVIET FISHERY EXPORTS TO NIGERIA

REF: A) STATE 209575, B) STATE A-425, JAN. 26, 1976

1. ACCORDING TO FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES (FDF), IMPORTS OF FISH INTO NIGERIA IN 1976 TOTALLED 300,039 TONS. OF THIS, CATCH BROUGHT IN VIA DISTANT WATER CHARTER VESSELS AMOUNTED TO ONLY 124,880 TONS. THUS APPEARS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT NIGERIA IMPORTED 350,000 TONS OF MACKEREL FROM ANY SOURCE. ALTHOUGH SOVIETS, BULGARIANS AND ROMANIANS KNOWN TO BE ACTIVE IN DISTANT WATER CHARTER VESSEL FLEETS, IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL FROM GOVERNMENT STATISTICS WHAT IS SOURCE OF FISH THEY BRING INTO NIGERIA. WE HAVE ALSO INTERVIEWED FMG OFFICIALS, BUT MEANINGFUL DATA VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN.

2. EMBASSY KNOWS OF ONE SPECIFIC COMPANY, SIPOL, WHICH IMPORTS FISH FROM LAS PALMAS THROUGH SUPPLIER NAMED LUIS REINA. HOWEVER, DO NOT KNOW WHETHER SIPOL OR OTHER COMPANIES IMPORTING ATLANTIC MACKEREL FROM ICNAF AREA VIA LAS PALMAS.

3. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW UP CONTACTS MADE WITH FISHING COMPANIES DURING RECENT FISHING TRADE MISSION IN ORDER OBTAIN INFORMATION. ALSO ATTEMPTING OBTAIN INFORMATION ON PRICES,
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METHOD OF LANDING, SPECIES, TERMS OF TRADE AND OTHER DETAILED QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 4 REFAIRGRAM. NO SUCH DATA ARE AVAILABLE FROM FDF PUBLICATION. RE QUESTION PARA 7 REFAIR AS TO REASON FOR ABRUPT STOPPAGE OF SOVIET FISHERY EXPORTS TO NIGERIA IN 1964 AND 1965, WE NO LONGER HAVE ENCLUSURE TO REFAIR WHICH PRESUMABLY SHOWS SOVIET FISH EXPORT DATA. HOWEVER, FORMER DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES SAID MAIN REASON FOR REDUCTION OF IMPORTS

FROM DISTANT WATER FLEETS AT THAT TIME WAS IMPOSITION OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS BY NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT DUE SCARCITY OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

4. EMBASSY POUCHING ANNUAL REPORTS OF FDF FOR 1970 THROUGH 1974 PLUS RECENTLY COMPLETED STATISTICAL SURVEY OF NIGERIAN FISH PRODUCTION FOR 1975/76 WHICH ALSO INCLUDES IMPORT STATISTICS FOR THOSE YEARS. CHIEF STATISTICS OFFICER OF FDF MOSES O. OKPANEFE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENT RE METHODOLOGY AND CONTENT OF STATISTICAL SURVEY.

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